

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A fuel injection apparatus comprising:
 - a valve body that includes a valve seat, which is formed in an inner peripheral surface of the valve body that forms a fuel passage in the valve body;
 - an injection hole plate that is arranged downstream of the valve seat and includes a wall, which has a plurality of injection holes, wherein the injection holes penetrate through the wall of the injection hole plate to inject fuel supplied from the fuel passage, and each injection hole of the injection hole plate includes:
 - at least one first-side hole section that extends from an upstream end of the wall of the injection hole plate to an axially intermediate point of the wall of the injection hole plate, which is located between the upstream end of the wall and a downstream end of the wall; and
 - a second-side hole section that extends from the downstream end of the wall of the injection hole plate and is communicated with the at least one first-side hole section, wherein an upstream end of the second-side hole section is covered with a cover portion, and the at least one first-side hole section penetrates through the cover portion such that the at least one first-side hole section discharges fuel into the second-side hole section in a manner that forms a swirl fuel flow in the second-side hole section; and
 - a valve member that is reciprocally received in the valve body and is seatable against the valve seat, wherein the valve member enables fuel injection from the injection holes when the valve member is lifted away from the valve seat, and the valve member disables fuel injection from the injection holes when the valve member is seated against the valve seat.

2. (Currently amended) The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the at least one first-side hole section of each injection hole~~ includes a plurality of first-side hole sections.

3. (Original) The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least a downstream end of each first-side hole section extends in one of:

a direction of a tangent line to an imaginary circle, which is concentric with an upstream end of the second-side hole section; and

a direction that is axially angled to the tangent line to the imaginary circle on the upstream side of the imaginary circle.

4. (Original) The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second-side hole section has a circular cross section.

5. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ fuel injection apparatus according to claim 1 comprising:

a valve body that includes a valve seat, which is formed in an inner peripheral surface of the valve body that forms a fuel passage in the valve body;

an injection hole plate that is arranged downstream of the valve seat and includes a wall, which has a plurality of injection holes, wherein the injection holes penetrate through the wall of the injection hole plate to inject fuel supplied from the fuel passage, and each injection hole of the injection includes:

a second-side hole section that extends from the downstream end of the wall of the injection hole plate and is communicated with the at least one first-side hole section, wherein the at least one first-side hole section discharges fuel into the second-side hole section; and

a valve member that is reciprocally received in the valve body and is seatable against the valve seat, wherein the valve member enables fuel injection from the injection holes when the valve member is lifted away from the valve seat, and the valve

member disables fuel injection from the injection holes when the valve member is seated against the valve seat,

wherein a swirl direction of the swirl fuel flow in one of each adjacent two second-side hole sections of the injection hole plate is opposite to a swirl direction of the swirl fuel flow in the other one of each adjacent two second-side hole sections.

Claims 6-13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently amended) An injection hole plate for a fuel injection apparatus, the injection hole plate comprising a wall, which has a plurality of injection holes that penetrate through the wall of the injection hole plate to inject fuel, wherein each injection hole of the injection hole plate includes:

at least one first-side hole section that extends from an upstream end of the wall of the injection hole plate to an axially intermediate point of the wall of the injection hole plate, which is located between the upstream end of the wall and a downstream end of the wall; and

a second-side hole section that extends from the downstream end of the wall of the injection hole plate and is communicated with the at least one first-side hole section, wherein an upstream end of the second-side hole section is covered with a cover portion, and the at least one first-side hole section penetrates through the cover portion such that the at least one first-side hole section discharges fuel into the second-side hole section in a manner that forms a swirl fuel flow in the second-side hole section.

Claim 15. (Canceled).

16. (New) The injection hole plate according to claim 14, wherein each injection hole includes a plurality of first-side hole sections.

17. (New) The injection hole plate according to claim 14, wherein the second-side hole section has a circular cross section.

18. (New) The injection hole plate according to claim 14, wherein each first-side hole section has a circular cross section.

19. (New) The injection hole plate according to claim 14, wherein each first-side hole section extends in a direction inclined to a plane of said wall.

20. (New) The injection hole plate according to claim 14, wherein the second-side hole section extends in a direction perpendicular to a plane of said wall.

21. (New) The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each first-side hole section has a circular cross section.

22. (New) The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each first-side hole section extends in a direction inclined to a plane of said wall.

23. (New) The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second-side hole section extends in a direction perpendicular to a plane of said wall.

24. (New) An injection hole plate for a fuel injection apparatus, the injection hole plate comprising a wall, which has a plurality of injection holes that penetrate through the wall of the injection hole plate to inject fuel, wherein each injection hole of the injection hole plate includes:

at least one first-side hole section that extends from an upstream end of the wall of the injection hole plate to an axially intermediate point of the wall of the injection hole plate, which is located between the upstream end of the wall and a downstream end of the wall; and

a second-side hole section that extends from the downstream end of the wall of the injection hole plate and is communicated with the at least one first-side hole section, wherein the at least one first-side hole section discharges fuel into the second-side hole section in a manner that forms a swirl fuel flow in the second-side hole section, and a swirl direction of the swirl fuel flow in one of each adjacent two second-side hole sections is opposite to a swirl direction of the swirl fuel flow in the other one of each adjacent two second-side hole sections.

25. (New) The injection hole plate according to claim 24, wherein each injection hole includes a plurality of first-side hole sections.

26. (New) The injection hole plate according to claim 24, wherein the second-side hole section has a circular cross section.

27. (New) The injection hole plate according to claim 24, wherein each first-side hole section has a circular cross section.

28. (New) The injection hole plate according to claim 24, wherein each first-side hole section extends in a direction inclined to a plane of said wall.

29. (New) The injection hole plate according to claim 24, wherein the second-side hole section extends in a direction perpendicular to a plane of said wall.